

States this year—more than in any other country in the world.

One of the causes for this gun violence epidemic is that the NICS system, which is the background check system that we rely on to keep our communities safe, is not working.

Over the last few years, shooters in Aurora, Charleston, and at Virginia Tech were all able to buy guns legally despite numerous red flags; and, as of last year, 11 States still were not even providing information to the NICS system. Congress needs to do more to bring them into the system.

Right now, someone who has committed a violent crime could walk into a gun store and put an assault rifle on the counter, and if a background check is not completed within 3 days, there is no prohibition to selling that individual the gun. We need to extend this review period so NICS can thoroughly vet someone before he is able to buy a gun.

These are commonsense solutions, and it is time for Congress to act and put a stop to an epidemic that is taking the lives of thousands of Americans each year.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE STOUT

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Art Conservationist Specialist George Stout in honor of his granddaughter and Mishawaka resident, Lauren Parker.

George Stout was one of the leaders of the Monuments Men, a group established in 1944 of men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section under the Allied Armies during World War II.

We cannot thank him and the Monuments Men enough for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

Today, in accordance with H.R. 3658, the Monuments Men Recognition Act of 2014, a Congressional Gold Medal was given in commemoration of the Monuments Men.

Stout is an honorary Hoosier, in my eyes, and I am grateful for the opportunity to meet his family as we honor him and the other Monuments Men with the Congressional Gold Medal Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring George Stout and the other Monuments Men for their invaluable efforts during World War II.

CALENDAR OF CHAOS

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the American people saw the television

spectacle of the Benghazi hearing. In watching my Republican friends on television, it was like watching an “I Love Lucy” episode—the same plot, the same characters, the same script, and nothing new.

Here is what the American people did not see yesterday from the majority in this Congress: They didn’t see a hearing to create jobs. They didn’t hear an idea to increase incomes. They didn’t hear one single solution to reduce the cost of education.

The American people want Republicans to spend their time increasing incomes and less time trying to take down Hillary Clinton. We are tired of this calendar of chaos, Mr. Speaker. It is time for action. It is time for negotiation. It is time for compromise. It is time to stop wasting time and tax dollars.

NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

(Mr. ABRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of National Forest Products Week. I would like to recognize the more than 18,000 hardworking men and women who are employed by the forest products industry in Louisiana, including nearly 2,500 working in the pulp and paper sector in my district alone.

Many of America’s forests exist to support a strong market for forest products—markets that encourage landowners to replant forests responsibly and manage them sustainably. In Louisiana, this industry provides hardworking Americans with over \$1.1 billion in compensation every year and is a top 10 manufacturing sector in the State.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Forest Products Week and reflect on the fact that, today, the U.S. has 20 percent more trees than it did on the first Earth Day in 1970. Together, let’s ensure that the sustainable and renewable products that come from these forests endure for generations to come.

GUNS AND GOVERNMENT’S FAILURE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I stood in this Chamber and called on Congress to take action to improve our Nation’s background check system for firearm purchases.

Despite an overwhelming amount of support across the country for universal background checks and bipartisan legislation to implement them, this Congress has still done nothing. It is just the latest example of Congress failing to do the work of the American people. The debt ceiling and transportation funding are two others.

Last week, I joined with our former police chief and Republican mayor and a group of moms and other San Diegans who now imagine the possibility of sending their children to school and never seeing them again, and we called on Congress to take action, to do something.

In San Diego, keeping guns out of the hands of those who shouldn’t have them is not a partisan issue. In fact, more than 90 percent of Americans support increasing background checks and closing loopholes. I have brought the signatures of those San Diegans with me here to Washington and have personally delivered their requests for action to the Speaker of the House.

It is time to get to work. It is time to do something.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, as Commander in Chief, the President of the United States is tasked with upholding the safety and security of our Nation; but, yesterday, President Obama vetoed the annual defense bill that ensures the right policies are in place to protect us.

The National Defense Authorization Act is actually one of the few pieces of legislation up here that regularly gets voted out of the House and Senate, regardless of who controls the Chamber.

This year, the NDAA passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 270–156, and it passed the Senate 70–27. It is one of the few things that gets done like it is supposed to. In fact, the NDAA has been enacted into law every year since its inception in 1961.

President Obama vetoed this bill not because he disagreed with its substance, but because he wanted to use it as a bargaining chip to force Congress to increase its spending for his non-defense programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Taliban is reentering Afghanistan. Islamic extremists are attempting to conquer Iraq. The U.S. is at odds with Russia over Syria’s civil war; and China is expanding beyond its territorial claims in the Pacific. Frankly, the world is in chaos.

While he only has one more year in office, there could not be a worse time for President Obama to so selfishly—no—so recklessly—push his agenda at the cost of U.S. national security.

In God we trust.

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS FOOTHILLS AND RIVERS PROTECTION ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protect a national treasure.

The San Gabriel Mountains are the crown jewel of Los Angeles County,